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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/675,671	09/29/2000	Yoshito Shibauch	4035-0116P	3850

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EXAMINER

TRAN LIEN, THUY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1761	

DATE MAILED: 03/13/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/675,671	Applicant(s) Shibauch et al.
	Examiner Lien Tran	Art Unit 1761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb. 14, 2002

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) 1-11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 12-16 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 5 20) Other: _____

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1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group III, claims 12-16 in Paper No. 9 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the inventions are closely related and that it would not be unduly burdensome for the examiner to examine them together in this application. This is not found persuasive because the inventions are not closely related and it would be unduly burdensome to search all the inventions because the search for one invention is not required for the other inventions and would not lead to references that are applicable to the other inventions.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

3. Claims 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 12: Lines 6-8, what does applicant mean by " having integrity with the platy food materials in the external layers"? It is not clear what is encompassed by the term " integrity".

Also, what does applicant mean by " integrity between the platy food materials in the intermediate layer"? There is only one intermediate layer.

In claim 13: Line 4, what does applicant mean by " in tone"?

In claim 15, what does applicant mean by " tone"?

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

5. Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by the recipe for cheese terrine in the Fresno Bee.

The recipe discloses cheese terrine comprising external layers of sliced cheddar cheese and intermediate layers of cream cheese filling comprising cream cheese, hot red pepper sauce, salt, nuts, and dried fruit. The cheese in the intermediate layer is a different type from the cheese in the external layers and contains foods other than cheese. Since the external layers are slice cheddar cheese, it is clear it can be removed from the intermediate layers. The cheese terrine has the same structure and ingredients as the claimed product; thus, it will inherently have the same property as the claimed product with respect to integrity.

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.

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3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

8. Claims 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the recipe in the Fresno Bee.

The recipe is described above. It is not clear what applicant means by tone. If tone means different shade of color, then it is obvious the cheese layers have different additive to give different color they are different cheese. As to being piled, it would have been obvious to pile as many layers as desired. This would have been an obvious matter of choice. The cheese terrine is wrapped.

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Dupas et al disclose a composite cheese product.

Plochman discloses layered cheese food product.

Caille discloses rolled cheese product.

Mayfield discloses layered food products.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lien Tran whose telephone number is (703) 308-1868. The examiner can normally be reached on Wed-Fri. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-7718.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

March 7, 2002


LIEN TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Group 1707